

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 ~~1. A method for programming an operator system interface with a simulator, said method comprising the steps of:
providing definitional tables for an operator system interface,
wherein said tables define specific governing attributes of said operator system interface;
generating a simulated operator system interface simulator program,
wherein when the simulator program is run on a computing device, it
displays a representation of the operator system interface defined by the
definitional tables input in the providing step, and allows a user to select
components of the interface, using a pointing device, in order to view
information about the selected component on a display device or to effect a
change in keysets or menus.~~
- 2 ~~2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating
tables to be used in a software requirements specification.~~
- 3 ~~3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
generating operational operator system interface definitional tables
using the simulated operator system interface definitional tables; and
developing an operational operator system interface from the
generated operational operator system interface definitional tables.~~
- 4 ~~4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the providing step further
comprises the step of extracting the definitional tables from an existing
operational operator system interface.~~

1 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the steps of generating a
2 simulated operator system interface simulator program, modifying the
3 simulated operator system interface and generating updated operational
4 operator system interface definitional tables are repeated a desired number
5 of times.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of updating
2 an operational operator system interface using the updated operational
3 operator system interface definitional tables generated in the generating
4 step.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of running
2 the simulator program on a personal computer (PC).

1 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used to
2 train operators in a control and display system defined by the operator
3 system interface.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used
2 to demonstrate functionality of a control and display system defined by the
3 operator system interface.